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by the Society, and ordered to be signed by the proper officers and transmitted to Congress.

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*Stated Meeting, December 15.*

Present, twenty-one members.

Dr. FRANKLIN BACHE, President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From the Royal Academy of Sciences at Amsterdam, dated 7th September, 1854,—and from the Royal Academy of Sciences at Berlin, dated 9th September, 1854,—on transmitting donations for the library:—

From the Horticultural Society of London, dated Regent street, November 7, 1854;—from the Royal Academy of Sciences at Berlin, dated 9th September, 1854;—from the Librarian of the Royal Library at Berlin, dated 14th November, 1854,—returning thanks for donations from this Society:—

From W. Vrolik, Secretary of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Amsterdam, dated 7th September, 1854, requesting to be furnished with the volumes of the Old Series of the Society's Transactions:—

From W. H. de Vriese to Dr. Dunglison, dated Leyden, 13th October, 1854, proposing to send to the Society various works, of which he is the author.

The following donations were announced:—

#### FOR THE LIBRARY.

Bulletin de la Société de Géographie. IV Série. Tome VII. Paris.

1854. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

Annales des Mines. V. Série. Tome V. Livraisons 1, 2 de 1854.

Paris. 8vo.—*From the Engineers of l'Ecole des Mines.*

Verhandelingen der Koninklijke Akademie van Wetenschappen.

Eerste Deel. 4to.

Verslagen en Mededeelingen der Akademie van Wetenschappen.

Eerste Deel. 1, 2, 3 Stuk; Tweede Deel, 1, 2 Stuk. Amster-

dam. 1853—4. 8vo.—*From the Royal Academy of Sciences, Amsterdam.*

Abhandlungen der Königlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, aus dem Jahre 1853. Berlin. 4to.

Monatsbericht der Königl. Preuss. Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin. August—December, 1853. January—July, 1854. Berlin, 1854.—*From the Royal Academy of Sciences at Berlin.*

Quarterly Journal of the Chemical Society. Vol. VII. No. 3. Oct. 1854. London. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

The Medical News and Library. Vol. XII. No. 144. December, 1854. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From Blanchard & Lea.*

The Florist and Horticultural Journal. Vol. III. Nos. 10, 11. Philadelphia, 1854.—*From H. C. Hanson, Editor.*

The Astronomical Journal. Vol. VI. No. 6. December 5, 1854. Cambridge. 4to.—*From Dr. B. A. Gould, Jr., Editor.*

The African Repository. Vol. XXX. No. 12. December, 1854. Washington. 8vo.—*From the American Colonization Society.*

The Plough, the Loom and the Anvil. Vol. VII. No. 6. December, 1854. New York. 8vo.—*From Myron Finch, Editor.*

Mr. Fraley announced the decease of William H. Dillingham, a member of this Society, who died on the 11th instant, in the 65th year of his age:—

And, on motion of Mr. Fraley, Dr. William Darlington, of West Chester, was requested to prepare an obituary notice of Mr. Dillingham.

The Committee of Finance reported that they had examined the accounts of the Treasurer for the fiscal year ending on the first of the present month, and found them to be correct.

The Committee recommended the following appropriations for the several purposes named;—which appropriations were ordered by the Society:—

For Publications,	.	.	.	.	.	\$400
" Journals,	.	.	.	.	.	50
" Hall,	.	.	.	.	.	500
" Binding,	.	.	.	.	.	50
" General Account,	.	.	.	.	.	1,200
						—————
						\$2,200

The President delivered his Annual Address on the pro-

gress, condition and general affairs of the Society,—with suggestions relative to the measures which, in his opinion, will conduce to the future improvement and efficiency of its scientific and business operations.

He remarked that since the delivery of his discourse in December last, the Society has pursued its usual quiet and useful career. The number of members on the first of January, 1854, was 362, of whom 261 are resident in the United States, and 101 in foreign countries. Since that time 21 resident and 7 foreign members have been elected, and in the same time the decease of 10 resident and 2 foreign members has been announced. According to a classification made by him of the resident members, as supposed to prefer the cultivation of science and the arts, literature, or natural history,—it appears that we have 158 scientific men and artists, 83 literary men, and 20 naturalists. He mentioned, as a source of regret, that our members of the literary class, comprising, for the most part, gentlemen of the legal and clerical professions, have seldom favoured us with any communications, as if they considered the object of the Society to be exclusively the cultivation of science.

The foreign members reported as deceased during the year, are Gotthelf Fischer von Waldheim, of Moscow, and Sir James Wylie, of St. Petersburg. Both these gentlemen were visited by the President during his tour in Europe, in the summer of 1853, and he bore testimony as to the cordiality with which he was received by them as a representative of the Society;—briefly commenting on the life and character of each.

He then proceeded to notice the resident members who have died within the year, and alluded particularly to Dr. Robert M. Patterson, late President of the Society, and also to the melancholy disaster which beset the steamer Arctic, in September last, by which the Society was deprived of two of its members, Mr. Jacob G. Morris and Prof. Henry Reed. He suggested that the consideration whether any means can be devised to prevent the increasing liability to danger from collisions at sea, might appropriately engage the attention of this Society, expressly established for the promotion of useful knowledge.

After some remarks in relation to the obituary notices of deceased members, he spoke of the improvement of the Society's library, and of the necessity for more extended accommodations for so numerous and valuable a collection of books and documents;—referring also

to the arrangement of the Franklin manuscript papers, now in progress.

The satisfactory condition of the financial affairs of the Society was next noticed, and suggestions made with regard to certain subjects connected therewith.

He next remarked that it was formerly the usage of members of this Society occasionally to dine together, for the purpose of social intercourse and of promoting mutual good feelings;—and suggested the propriety of establishing, as an anniversary occasion, the birthday of Franklin, the founder and first President of the Society, and of celebrating it by an annual dinner.

The President closed his discourse with observations relative to his being about to retire from the position of presiding officer, and with assurances of the deep interest which he has ever felt and will continue to feel in the prosperity of the Society.

On motion of Dr. Dunglison, the address was referred to the Board of Officers and Council.